

# **Downtown Providence District Management Authority**

## **Board of Directors meeting minutes**

**Thursday, January 22, 2008 8:30 a.m.**

### **1. Roll Call**

**Director Lappin called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m.**

**Directors present: Michael Corso, Joseph DiBattista, Evan Granoff, Susan LaPidus, Richard Lappin, John MacIver and Christopher Placco.**

**Ex-Officio Members present: Alan Chille, Diana Burdett and Alix Ogden**

**Others present: Dan Baudouin, Executive Director of the Providence Foundation; Joelle Crane, Program Director for the Providence Foundation; Steve Gibson, President of Urban Place Consulting; Frank Zammarelli, Operations Manager for Block by Block; Frank LaTorre, DID Director of Public Space; Rosemarie Durette, DID Accounting Manager/Office Administrator; Kim Smith, Providence Revolving Fund.**

### **2. Approval on the minutes of the December 22, 2008 meeting**

**Director DiBattista motioned to approve the minutes from the December 22, 2008 board meeting. Director Placco seconded the motion, and a roll call vote was held as follows:**

**Director Corso yes**

**Director DiBattista yes.**

**Director Granoff yes**

**Director LaPdius yes**

**Director Lappin yes**

**Director Macliver yes**

**Director Placco yes**

**Therefore the motion passed.**

### **3. Financial Report**

#### **Monthly Financial Reports**

**Steve Gibson presented the financials for December 2008. The Statement of Financial Position shows the DID to be in a comfortable cash position with adequate funds to pay monthly expenses and maintain a reserve.**

**The Statement of Operations shows a solid revenue position.. Over all expenditures are well below budget. Director Corso motioned to accept the December 2008 financials as presented. Director Placco seconded the motion, and a roll call vote was held as follows:**

**Director Corso yes**

**Director DiBattista yes**

**Director Granoff yes**

**Director LaPidus yes**

**Director Lappin yes**

**Director Macliver yes**

**Director Placco yes**

**Therefore the motion passed.**

#### **4. Discussion on Administration and Management Alternatives**

**At the December 2008 Board meeting a discussion was started regarding the relationship between the Downtown Improvement District and the Providence Foundation and the possible merger of the two staff offices. A more detail discussion was held in January.**

**Steve Gibson began by giving a presentation to the DID Board on models from other cities. In each example he showed how different Downtown organizations work together as one force to establish changes in their respective areas.**

**The most common example is that of one organization, an umbrella organization, made up of different organizations. In same case there were many working together and in some cases, as it would be in Providence, only two different organizations make up the umbrella corporation.**

**As Steve was going through his presentation he pointed out the strengths of the models and how they would apply here. The main objective is to have one strong organization that will advocate for the Downtown area. If the DID and the Providence Foundation were to join, the strengths of all the members would be united in one cause.**

**Though joined the DID and the Providence Foundation would still**

retain their separate identities. The DID's primary function of clean and safe would not change. The DID will still have its own Board and operating budget, as will the Providence Foundation.

The specific advantages to the new organization would be: a joint Board comprised of both DID Board members and Providence Foundation members to set policy regarding advocacy for Downtown, costs savings by combining two offices into one and combining staff to utilize the strengths of each person.

Steve asked for volunteers to meet with several members from the Board of the Providence Foundation to discuss the possibility of this new arrangement. Directors Gagliardi, Granoff, MacIver, LaPidus and Lappin have agreed to represent the DID. A meeting will be scheduled for some time in February.

## **5. Other Business**

Frank LaTorre briefly updated the Board about a meeting that he attended with the City Councilors representing Downtown and the City's Traffic Engineering Department. This meeting was regarding the street sign name project. Frank asked for additional funding for this project being that the money allocated by the DID falls short of the projected costs. Each Councilor agreed to give \$4,000.00 towards the project from their own bond money if the Traffic Engineering Department would do the same. The Department representative said that he would find the funds needed to contribute. So now the street name signs can be produce.

The Board would like to thank both Councilor Lombardi and

**Councilor Young for their help with this project and many others. Director Corso motioned that a resolution of appreciation be given to the Councilors. Director Lappin seconded, and a roll call vote was held as follows:**

**Director Corso yes**

**Director DiBattista yes**

**Director Granoff yes**

**Director LaPidus yes**

**Director Lappin yes**

**Director Macliver yes**

**Director Placco yes**

**Therefore the motion passed.**

**Please see attached resolution.**

## **6. Adjournment**

**Director Lappin adjourned the meeting at 10:05a.m.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Rosemarie Durette**

**Accounting Manager/Office Administrator**

## **RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION**

**Be it resolved that on this day, the 22nd day of January 2009, the Downtown Providence District Management Authority Board of Directors would like to express their appreciation to Councilor Balbina Young and Councilor John Lombardi for their assistance with the street name sign project for Downtown Providence. As a result of their cooperation and assistance with the City of Providence Department of Public Works, the project has adequate funding and is moving forward, to the benefit of residents, businesses and visitors alike. We appreciate the invaluable contributions made by these Councilors, as valued partners, to the work of the Downtown Improvement District.**

**Gagliardi**  
**the Board**

**Robert**  
**Chairman of**